




**Umndeni
WaBantwana**
- family for children -

Dec2012

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You must love the LORD
your God with all your
heart, all your soul, and all
your mind and second to
love your neighbor as
yourself."
Matthew 22:37-39

Blessed Christmas 2012 and a Happy New Year 2013

Wow, two days to go and it will be Christmas day. I can definitely tell you all we will not be going anywhere near a shop tomorrow. If there is one thing I have learned in all my years in retail is tomorrow will be a hectic day if you go shopping. Today Michelle took the turkeys out the freezer to defrost.

I am trying to reflect on the year we have had and moment that have stood out for us as a family.

This time last year we were sitting down with our teenage son Nathan and his friends telling them that they had to take over leading the worship music team in church. I would love to tell you things went perfectly from the start but it did not. Michelle and I were given one piece of advice, Love them and be very patient with them. Musos are very sensitive guys, especially when it comes to their music. I must say they have matured a lot in the year and are always up for a challenge. In 2013 Aidan and his friend Sazi will join the band and the guys will start preparing for our Easter Conference 2013.



This year Michelle and I celebrated our 20 year wedding anniversary. If someone told me 20 years ago we would be sitting here I would laugh at them. Some people do know the story but for those who don't Michelle married me on one condition and that was we would not have children. Well I guess 14 kids later and one more on the way I am glad she did not make me sign a contract.

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We have had a year filled with highs and lows and more highs than lows. The kids have all worked hard at school. They will all be progressing to the next year. Lisa is a very hard worker and has very high expectations of herself and has excelled at school this year. The more Michelle and I try to slow her down the harder she seems to work. When Michelle and her teacher told her that she would not achieve the goal that she had set for herself for the year, because it would be too difficult she was determined and worked extremely hard and of course managed to reach the target she had set for herself.

This year Michelle with the help of Beatrice started Jacobs Ladder, Grade RR. They had a very small class and this allowed them as teachers to settle down into their first year. Michelle was also able to teach Beatrice how to manage the class room. Next year, 2013, they are expecting 15 children. They would like to get the number of children up to 20. It was a good year for all our kids in Jacobs Ladder. They will all be going through to Grade R next year. Kayla will be going to Jacobs Ladder and that means only Stephen will be at home. Three years ago Michelle and I thought we would not survive because of all the kids we had at home.

We also won't forget the team that came out from America and Canada to build a jungle gym. Our biggest challenge for 2013 will be space and we will need to move to a bigger classroom.



Kids from Jacobs Ladder



The new Jungle Gym

At the end of last year the Mosvold Family gave us the funding to buy a house. At first I was not sure what we would do with the house but it has come into very good use. In fact it was a life saver for Khetani Christain School. They did not have a class room and so we let them use the house. Next year Michelle's brother, who is a teacher at Khetani, will be moving into the house. One of the biggest challenges we have is providing accommodation to retain teachers. Fortunately the school won't need any more houses next year as we have enough teachers to see us through the year.

*"Fear not, for I am with you,
I will bring your offspring from the
east and gather you from the
west"*

Isaiah 43vs5

*"Train up a child in the way he
should go, and when he is old
he will not depart from it."*
Proverbs 22:6

When school starts next year we will have four children going into Grade R. Nathan and Aidan will be back home to be homeschooled. Khetani is not able to take them any further with their schooling. Aidan will continue to participate in the school sports. Unfortunately we have nothing for Nathans age group. However he has started Bee keeping as a Hobby. Don't worry we keep them well away from the kids.

Below Nathan and Vee working on one of the beehives



We have always tried to make our home a place where children and teenagers enjoy being. This way we are able to have an input into their lives and keep them off the streets, the teenage pregnancy rate is so high in Ingwavuma. The Mosvold family blessed us with a family and entertainment room. The kids all spend time in the playroom watching dvd's, playing on the playstation and playing table tennis, it also serves as an extra room for all the teenage boys to sleep in during the weekends and holidays. We also try to take them all on outings to the beach or try to find a swimming pool to take them too which is not very easy. We would love to build a swimming pool which would keep them all busy and importantly teach them to swim which is an important skill. We are hoping next year we will be able to build a pool.

Christmas Eve we will be having 26 people for dinner. On Christmas day we will all come together as early as possible. Michelle with the help of one of the girls will hand our presents and I will read the Christmas story to the children. We will go to Church at 9am and at 1pm we will have a light lunch.

We want to thank you for your support we have received to make this day and year possible. Most of all we must thank our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know where we will be without him. Word can't begin to explain how he has and is taking care of us. Praise be to Him.

Thanks Guys, may God Bless you and your family. Have a great Christmas and 2013.

Last but not least a big thanks to Esther from ZUMAT for our web site. Please tell friends about it.